

- Son of Henry Mansell, of Ystraddeu, son of John Mansell, who was son of Sir Francis Mansell, Bt., Sheriff 1595 above, by his second wife. By his wife Frances, only dau. of Sir John Stepney of Prendergast, 2nd Bart., by his wife Magdalen, dau and co-h. of Sir Henry Johnes, Kt., Sheriff 1606 above. She married as her second husband and as his second wife Rawleigh Mansell, Sheriff 1679 above.
- Married Dorothy, dau. of Philip Vaughan, of Trimsaran, Sheriff 1661 above, and sister and h. of Edward Vaughan.
- Created Bart. 1697. Father of Sheriff 1729.  
Dale MS. 11 Ystraddeu.
- 1690.—EDWARD JONES, of Llether Neuadd.
- 1691.—WALTER THOMAS, of Bremenda.
- 1692.—FRANCIS BROWNE, of Frood.
- 1693.—ROWLAND GWYNNE, of Taliaris.  
Son of William Gwynne, son of Rowland Gwynne, Sheriff 1638 above by his wife Anne, dau. of David Gwynne, of Llwynbowell, Sheriff 1632 above.
- Married Frances, dau. of Sir Roger Lort, of Stackpole, co. Pemb., Bt., by his first wife, Hester, dau of Francis Annesley Viscount Valentia, and Lord Mount Norris by his wife Dorothy, dau. of Sir John Philips, Bt., of Picton.  
Dale MS. 16 Taliaris.
- 1694.—GRIFFITH RICE, of Newton.  
Son of Walter Rice, who was brother of Sir Edward Rice, Sheriff 1663 above, by his wife Elizabeth, dau. of Pierce Dyer, of —, co. Glam., and widow of —, Games, of Aberbran in the parish of Penderyn, co. Brecon.
- Married Catherine, dau. and co-h. of Philip Hoby, of Neath Abbey, co. Glam.  
M.P. co. Carmarthen 1701-1710, four Parliaments.  
Dale MS. 9 Newton.
- 1695.—NATHANIEL GRIFFITH, of Mountain Hall.  
Son of Thomas Griffith, Vicar of Llangeler.  
By his wife Catherine, dau. of Nathan Field (Bishop).  
Married, 1st, Jane, dau. of Howell Phillips, of Dolhoff, sister of Sheriff 1687 above.  
Married, 2nd, Elizabeth, dau of John Lloyd, of Cilgwyn (Dale MS. 84) by his wife Elinor, d. of John Lloyd, of Llangenyeh (Dale MS. 68) by his wife Elizabeth, dau of Howell Gwynne, of Glanbran (Dale MS. 17). She was widow of William Lloyd, of Pantigilgane (Dale MS. 44).  
Dale MS. 68 Cilgynfydd.
- 1696.—JEREMIAH DAWKIN, otherwise Wm. Dawkin of Cilrock.
- 1697.—JOHN LLOYD, of Llangennych.  
Son of John Lloyd, Sheriff 1674 above.  
Married Mary, dau. of Morgan Herbert, of Hafod (Dale MS. 85), by his wife Mary, dau. and co-h. of Henry Vaughan of Cilennin (who was brother of Sir John Vaughan of Trawscoed), by his wife Mary, dau. of John Stedman of Cilennin. Cf. Sheriff of 1656 above. She was widow of Daniel Evans of Peterwell.  
Dale MS. 68, Llangennych.
- 1698.—NICHOLAS WILLIAMS, of Ystradwraill.  
Son of William Williams, son of David Williams, son of William Johnes, who signs for L.D. 235.  
By his wife Lettice, d. of Nicholas Williams, Sheriff 1665 above.  
Married —  
Of L.D. 235. Dale MS. 43 Ystradwraill.
- 1699.—GRIFFITH WILLIAMS, of Carmarthen.  
Son of William ap Howell ap John and brother of Rice Williams. Sheriff 1672 above id egr-v.
- Married Mary, dau. of John Williams, of Gwmpreston, Sheriff 1628 above. Died Feb. 1699 and George Lewis supplied as sheriff in his place. He was also Mayor of Carmarthen at the time of his death, and was succeeded in that office by William Brigstocke, of Castle Piggie. I am not at all clear about the identification of this Sheriff.
- 1699 bis.—GEORGE LEWIS, of Carmarthen, in place of Griffith Williams, deceased.
- 1700.—WALTER MORGAN, of Glantowy, Parish of Liangaddock.

E. A.

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## No. 176—July 10th.

CAERMARTHENSHIRE  
“PEOPLE CALLED QUAKERS.”

[By Geo. Eyre Evans, a member from its foundation, of the  
FRIENDS' HISTORICAL SOCIETY.]  
Chapter I.

The earliest mention of Friends in this County is probably that of the year 1661, when we are told that—

Besides the grievous persecution inflicted on this People in Wales, under Colour of Law, many of them were grievously beaten and abused, to the Hazard of their Lives by wicked Persons on the Road, who on Presumption of Impunity, made it their sport to insult and abuse their peaceable Neighbours. Of those who suffered much by this Means were John Humphreys, and Humphry William at Carmarthen, . . . and even some of the Priests struck several of them with their own Hands.” (Cf. “Sufficiencies,” Joseph Besse, 1753, i., 735-762).

This was eleven years after the time of their being first distinguished by the name of Quakers in the year 1650. John ap John, of Trevor, in the parish of Llangollen (one of the many persons influenced by the preaching of the earliest associates of George Fox, and who at once engaged actively as Ministers in the “service of Truth.”) had, in 1655, suffered imprisonment. “Being in the Steeple-house there, after the Preacher had ended his sermon, John ap John asked him whether he was a Minister of Christ? This question gave great offence, not only to the Priest of whom it was asked but also to another of the same Function then present; who disconcerted his wrath by instantly seizing John by the collar, and without suffering him to speak another word, dragging him out and delivering him to a constable who confined him that night in a close dark prison. Next day he was brought before the Magistrates, whom the priests laboured to incense against him, requiring in their fierce zeal to have him whipt, that the Devil might come out of him, and as often as he attempted to speak, one or other of the priests would strike him, and stop his mouth with their hands.” At length he was sent to prison at Cardiff.

The practice of speaking in churches and in public places after the authorised preacher had concluded was an admitted custom, if not allowed by the law, during the period from 1648 to 1660.

On the 8th September, 1662, one James Pio-  
ton was committed to Caermarthen Castle, under sentence of premunire, for refusing to swear, and

was, from thence, after four months, removed to the gaol at Haverfordwest. He must have been, at some date during that period, sent back to Caermarthen, for in 1672, amongst the prisoners discharged by Charles II., his Letters Patent, we read: "Out of Caermarthen Castle, James Pioton who had lain in close confinement there ten years under sentence of premunire." James Owen (1644-1706) the well known Presbyterian minister, who was born in the parish of Abernant, was one of his pupils "in Caermarthen Castle, from whence he was sent to the Free-school of that town—a seminary of considerable note—then under the care of Mr. David Phillips." (Cf. Cambro-British Biography; Wm. Richards, LL.D., 1820, p. 316.)

Humphry William, already mentioned, was a sturdy Quaker of Caermarthen; he and his wife Rebecca as they were going to a meeting at Haverfordwest in September, 1662, were taken in the streets, and imprisoned some days. In 1684 he was a prisoner in Caermarthen gaol about a year, "for absence from the National Worship," and one Thomas Griffiths was his fellow-prisoner, for about three months, for the same cause.

At this time we get scattered references to Quakers in the county and closely adjacent to it. There is, for example, the curious account given on the 28th March, 1667, by John Man, collector of the port of Swansea, to Joseph Williamson, secretary to Lord Arlington. "A Tenby vessel from Bristol was bulged within the bar, and in great danger. The captain made a Quaker woman in the cabin, who was afraid, lay her head on two great bibles. She asked what they were, and being told they were Church Bibles, said it was no wonder such a violent storm fell upon them, and it would not cease till those Jonahs were cast overboard; but coming on shore in a boat with others, she alone was drowned, and proved the Jonah." (Cf. S.P.D., 1667.)

An early Friends' Register preserved in Somerset House, contains this entry: "Raobel Bowen, departed this life the 11th Day of the 7th mo. in the year of our blessed Saviour, 1694. And was stolen from Friends, and lies inter'd in Llandilo Steeple-House."

Archdeacon Tenison, in the valuable MS. account of his Visitation in Caermarthenshire, 1710, which is amongst the archives in the Diocesan Registry, makes occasional references to the Quakers, e.g.,

"Ljaocharn [Laugharne]. In this parish are two meetings, one of Quakers, and another of Presbyterians. They are both of long standing. The Quakers have continued ever since the reign of King Charles II.; and the Presbyterians were here in King James's reign. The Quakers are two families."

"Llan Deilo Fawr. There is a meeting of Quakers, consisting of about 6 families of this parish."

"Llanllwch. [Query] if there is not a Quakers' Meeting at this place?"

From the end of the seventeenth century onwards the proceedings of the Society of Friends in South Wales have been recorded in a series of MS. Minute Books, which are fortunately well-nigh intact and available for historical purposes. They are kept in the safe of the Clerk of the Monthly Meeting, F. Wm. Gibbins, the present High Sheriff of Glamorganshire. By the polite offices of our fellow-member, and with the consent of the Monthly Meeting, I have had access to this unique mine of original information, and have made a fairly complete examination of the twenty-one volumes submitted to me. From their pages I have extracted much pertaining to Friends in the County of Caermarthen, which will be incorporated in these chapters, and appear in print

for the first time. F. Wm. Gibbins (son of Frederick J. Gibbins, and grandson of Dovington Gibbins, both of the Society of Friends) gave personal attention to the matter, was present during the whole of the inspection, and has revised and had type written every extract made, which as read out was taken down by his shorthand clerk, Mr. Davies, and afterwards carefully compared with the original entry. A list of the MSS. and their dates will be given at the end of these chapters.

The letters M.M. are used for "Monthly Meeting"; Q.M. for "Quarterly Meeting"; and Y.M. for "Yearly Meeting."

#### CAERMARTHEN.

The earliest reference to Friends in this town would appear to be that at a M.M. held at Redstone, the 19th of 2nd mo., 1700, when we read of "This Meeting receiving a note from Friends of Caermarthen desiring us to assist them, as they are in arrears of rent for their Meeting House at Llanllwch. It is ordered that P. Musgrave pay Richard Stafford 10s., and let him know that it is desired of this Meeting he should see the 7s. rent be paid." Redstone is in Pembrokeshire. A Friends' Meeting House was there. The late Frederick J. Gibbins, writing in 1905, says: "This place is a few miles from Narberth. Probably the last meeting held there was in 1816, when Henry Knight, a member of Ratcliff M.M., married Sarah Lewis. Henry Knight died at his residence, near Swansea, in 1863, and not long before his death he told me that at the time of his marriage, one half of the roof of Redstone Meeting-house was remaining. In 1820 the whole place had fallen into ruins. I could see no trace of the Meeting-house, but was shown some stones in a wall that had formed part of the building. Trewern is a small Burial Ground, near Redstone. It was the property of John Lewis, a Friend, whose residence was Trewern House. The last survivor of this family presented the graveyard, and an adjoining cottage, to the Society of Friends in 1870." (Cf. Journal of Friends' Historical Society, 1905, ii., p. 45.)

Where the Friends met for worship at this period has been until now a matter of conjecture; this entry, taken in conjunction with that by Archdeacon Tenison already quoted points to the secluded suburb of Llanllwch, Caermarthen, as that affording the needed quiet and unobtrusive place for their worship. It was in all likelihood a room or outbuilding rented from some sympathetic farmer.

The first Meeting-house for Friends actually erected in the town of Caermarthen was that built in 1746-8 on a site "situate, lying and being in Gell Street, otherwise Geer Street, otherwise Lamas Street." On the 30th and 31st of the 10th mo., 1746, "a house and garden" were bought by Thomas Morgan, maltster, one of the Friends, from David Thomas, glover, and on 6th day, 6th mo., 1748, Thomas Morgan granted to Peter Young and others, trustees, a "lease for one year of the New Meeting House, lately erected and built by money arising out of a subscription among several of the people called Quakers."

The first recorded M.M. held in it was that on the 3rd of 6th mo., 1756, the "Friends present being John Allen, Lewis William, Jacob David, Thomas John, Pfflin Rees, William Evan Williams, and Thomas Price. No collection. Our next M.M. is to be held at the usual time."

This building of 1746-8 remained practically as erected until shortly after the Passing in it of Alwyn C. Evans, in March, 1902, who owned it, and lived in it. The walls had been pierced to receive a few windows, and a tiled roof had taken the place of the original thatch..

On 2nd, 10th mo., 1807, Henry Squire, of Swansea, ship-builder, being then the only surviving trustee of the Meeting-house, granted a lease of

it to seven members of the Society of Friends, to carry on Divine worship in it as in the past. It was at once put in order, the sum of £30 12s. being "paid for repairing Caermarthen Meeting House," at M.M. held on the 13th of 4th mo., 1809. Also at the M.M. held at Swansea, the 16th of 12th mo., 1813, "William Jones brought to this M. an account of Expenses incurred in repairing the Meeting-house at Caermarthen, amounting to £2 4s. 6d., which the Treasurer was desired to discharge."

#### Chapter II.

Shortly afterwards we hear of an application by the Wesleyan Methodists for the loan of the modest Meeting-house, which is thus recorded: "At our M.M. held at Swansea, the 20th, of 7th mo., 1820, an application having been made to this M. for the loan of our Meeting-house at Caermarthen, for the purpose of holding meetings of the Wesleyan Methodists, during repairs of their own, it is the judgment of this M. consistent with the direction of the Y.M., that it cannot be lent them for that purpose. A Jackson and Joseph T. Price are requested to inform Joseph Cole of the decision of this M. We appoint Abraham Jackson and Joseph T. Price to endeavour to let the Meeting-house at Caermarthen, in a manner agreeable with our will there-of."

It was about this time that the Friends ceased regular worship at Caermarthen; their numbers, never very large at any period, were now reduced to but a few. A tenant for the Meeting-house was soon found, and the difficulties in the way of letting it to the Methodists must have been surmounted, as they entered into occupation of it and there remained until the year 1824, when at a M.M. held at Neath, the 14th of 3rd mo., "A letter having been received from C. Jones, on behalf of the Methodist Society occupying our Meeting-house at Caermarthen, expressing a wish to give up the same, it was agreed that in the event of its being seated and left in the same state in which they took it from us, Joseph T. Price be authorised to take possession of it again." This was done, and the Meeting-house again let the same year, for "at our M.M. held at Swansea the 14th of 10th mo., 1824, Joseph T. Price reports that the Meeting-house at Caermarthen has been let to Marks, for the purpose of holding a school, at a rent of £6 per annum from 3rd mo., 25th, such possession to be given up when required. And he also reports that he received £5, less 12s. 6d. for repairs, balance due from former tenants, which is now paid to the Treasurer." These Wesleyan Methodists who were the first tenants of the Friends' Meeting-house, were those who formed the Welsh congregation, which erected Ebenezer Chapel, in the year 1824.

Marks, the schoolmaster, appears to have occupied the Meeting-house until 1826, when at M.M. held at Swansea, the 9th of 3rd mo., we hear that "a letter has been received from Wm. Johns, of Caermarthen, wishing to rent the Meeting-house at Caermarthen for a school, which is referred to Joseph T. Price and Bevington Gibbons."

Johns was tenant until 1828, when at M.M. held at Neath, the 10th of 7th mo., it was decided that "William Johns wishing to give up the Meeting-house at Caermarthen, the subject is referred to Joseph T. Price and Bevington Gibbons."

Evidently feeling that there was little likelihood of again using the Meeting-house for Friends' worship, the Society decided to part with it. At M.M. held at Swansea, the 7th of 4th mo., 1831, "Bevington Gibbons and Joseph T. Price were requested to apply to the Half-yearly Meeting for a minute authorising the sale of the Meeting-house at Caermarthen, agreeable to the deed of trust for the same."

Tenth Minute of Half-yearly Meeting, held at Hay, the 13th of 4th mo., 1831: "The South Division of Wales M.M. having applied for the authority of this Meeting in confirming the sale of the Meeting-house and Burial Ground at Caermarthen, the Clerk of this Meeting is directed to sign the following Minute on behalf of this Meeting: At a meeting of the Society of Friends, held at Hay, the 13th of 4th mo. (April), 1831, being the Half Yearly Meeting of said Society for the Principality of Wales. The Meeting for the South Division of Wales held at Swansea the 7th of 4th mo., 1831, consisting principally of Meetings which formerly constituted the M.M. of Caernarvonshire and Glamorganshire, having agreed on the propriety of selling the Meeting-house and Burial Ground belonging to the Society of Friends in Caernarvonshire held by them under Trustees, of whom Richard S. Hartford, John Hartford, Robert Eaton, Thomas Bigg, and Jos. Price only survive, and as it appears by the deed of Trust, or Lease by which the same is held, that the authority of the Meeting concerned is requisite to complete the Title, this Meeting being one of those referred to therein, hereby authorises the sale of the said Meeting-house and Burial Ground at Caermarthen to E[ward] D[ominick] Evans, of Caermarthen for the sum of One hundred and fifteen pounds, on CONDITION THAT THE BURIAL GROUND BE NOT DISTURBED, and the Trustees, or survivor or survivors of them are authorised to execute the necessary deed for the sale of the same accordingly; signed Jonn. Rees."

A stone yet remains in the back wall of the tiny Burial Ground behind the transformed Meeting-house, inscribed—

THIS WALL  
IS THE PROPERTY  
OF  
E. D. EVANS,  
1847.  
(To be continued).

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No. 177—July 17th.

#### TALLEY ABBEY.

(Paper read by W. Spurrell, Esq., at the Abbey, May 28th, 1908, to the Members of the Antiquarian Society, who attended the Dolau Couth Excursion).

The name Talley is derived from the Welsh name "Tal-y-llychau, which signifies the "Head of the Lakes." Whoever was responsible for the original selection of the site upon which this old pile of ruins now stands, it is quite clear that in those remote days there were some at least who had an eye for natural beauty, which led them to domicile the future occupants of this house in what is probably the most beautiful spot in the whole of the county.

There is every reason to believe that the Abbey was founded by Rhys ab Gruffydd, Prince of South Wales, grandson of Rhys ab Tewdwr, and Justiciar of South Wales under Henry II. He was also the founder of the Cistercian Abbey of Strata Florida. According to Mr Edward Owen's deductions, the date of the foundation of this Abbey falls between 1193 and 1197. There was considerable doubt as to the religious body to which this Abbey belonged, and we have to thank Mr. Owen for establishing the fact that it was a Praemontrean house, occupied by a community of canons of the Pr. order, and it is interesting to note that it was the only house of that order in the whole of Wales.

It was dedicated to Our Lady and St. John the Baptist, and its first abbot was Gervase, who afterwards became Bishop of St. David's. Another abbot was secretary and confessor to Sir Rhys ab Thomas.

The coats of arms are those of the Butlers of Penbrey and Dunraven; Basset of Beaupre; Sir John Monnington, Kt.; The Beauforts; The Lancastrian-Plantagenets 1405-1603; Sir William de Londres; Butler of Coedgantlys; and Sir Wm. Flemming. The window also bears the crest of the Beauforts, and emblems of the Passion.

The Parish Church Registers show that scores of sailors of many nationalities, and many unknown, have been buried in the Churchyard. The dreaded Cefn Sidan sands, the scene of many a shipwreck, is situated in the parish. One of the most pathetic is recorded on a stone in the churchyard; this inscription tells its own sad tale, "Sacred to the memory of Lt.-Col. Coqueline, aged 45 years, and Adeline, his daughter, aged 12 years; both natives of France, who lost their lives by the wreck of the ship 'La Jeune Emma' on Cefn Sidan Sand as they were returning home from Martinique in the West Indies, and were interred in this ground on the 25th of November, 1828. The above named lady was niece to Josephine, consort of that renowned individual Napoleon Bonaparte." Fourteen young women in deep mourning attended the remains of the lady as pall-bearers. The door of the ship's cabin of solid mahogany, is still preserved in a cottage in the village.

The Church is furnished throughout with high pews of yellow pine. The pews are now crumbling to pieces; the floor-boards are rotting away and exposing the bare earth, which is damp and clammy. The rain streams in through the roof in parts. The stones in tower and bell-cot are weather worn and crumbling away; the battlements of the tower are in danger of falling; the timber is rotting away; the bells—three in number—cannot be rung; one bell is cracked and requires re-casting. There is no system of ventilation or heating, and it is positively injurious to the health of the worshippers. It is the most dilapidated Church in the Diocese, and the only Parish Church, we believe, unrestored in the Archdeaconry of Carmarthen.

The present intention is to preserve all its ancient characteristics and historic features, and restore it with loving care to its pristine beauty. The work has been placed in the hands of W. D. Caroe, Esq., F.R.I.B.A., the Architect to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, who will be able to bring experience and culture to bear on its restoration.

Mr. Caroe writes thus with regard to it:—"Your Church is a very typical example of the early Welsh work, executed out of the local stone at hand, whereby the builders showed their power and originality in dealing with rough and untractable material. It has, of course, suffered not a little at times, when the builders' masterly work was not properly appreciated, but that it is with its remarkable tower a historic monument of the highest order, and worthy of the most careful preservation seems to me to go without saying. We owe it to posterity to hand down what we have received from the great ages of architecture, and this can only be done by a careful process of preservation, such as you are contemplating."

To carry out the work worthily, and to hand it down to posterity as a national monument, the estimated cost is £3,500. The Committee earnestly appeal to all lovers of ancient buildings for subscriptions.

D. JONES.

Pembrey Vicarage, Burry Port.

## CAERMARTHENSHIRE "PEOPLE CALLED QUAKERS."

[By Geo. Eyre Evans, a member from its foundation of the FRIENDS' HISTORICAL SOCIETY.]

### CHAPTER VI.

#### LAUGHARNE: THE QUAKERS' YARD.

Early particulars of the Society of Friends at Laugharne are contained in an Indenture, now before me, and dated the 10th November, 1726. It was made on that day between Owen Edwardes, of Llanmilo, and Mary Perrot, of Laugharne, widow of James Perrot, late of that town, and sister of Richard Stafford, late of the city of Bristol, deceased. For the sum of 10s. paid by Mary Perrot to Owen Edwardes, he sells to her and her executors, "all that piece of land commonly called the Fold, being part and parcel of the fields called the Tucking-mill Parks, and divided and severed from same by a hedge which encloses and encompasses said piece of land called the Fold; and also one footway to the same Fold, containing four foot in breadth, from the highway leading from Laugharne to St. Clears, in and through the north-east part of the Fields called the Tucking-mill Parks by the north hedge thereof which divides the same fields from a field called [blank], now in the possession of Catherine Harry, of Laugharne, widow."

The Fold is to be held by Mary Perrot and her executors for her and their use, during the full end and term of one thousand years, in trust that it shall be lawful to, and for all or any of the people called Quakers and for their servants, agents and labourers, from time to time, in the day time with proper tools and implements, to have free ingress, egress, and regress, in and by the footway described to the Fold.

"to dug graves or pits and to bury and inter therein all or any of the descendants and relations of Richard Stafford, deceased, or Mary Perrot, as also all or any of the people called Quakers who shall during the said term, die within the county of Caermarthen; and to use such funeral rites and solemnities in all or every such burials, as the people called Quakers, or any of them then and there present shall think proper and convenient to perform and celebrate."

Should Mary Perrot appropriate, or permit, or suffer to be appropriated the Fold to any other use than to be a Burying place for the descendants of Richard Stafford, or herself, or for the people called Quakers, then it shall be lawful for Owen Edwardes to re-enter, and by any writing under his hands to declare this indenture void. Mary Perrot and her executors are to keep the hedges in good repair.

The witnesses to the signatures are William Hibbs, Attorney at Bristol, and his clerk Matthew Parrott.

### Chapter VII.

So far the little Enclosure or Fold was for burials only. In due time there was need of a Meeting-house for Friends' worship, and the next document, likewise before the writer, is an "Abstract of Title to leasehold premises situate near the town of Laugharne," and dated the 19th June, 1712. By an Indenture of Lease between John Stafford, of Bradford, in the county of Wilts., clothier, nephew and devisee of Mary Perrot, of Laugharne, widow of the one part, and Richard Summers of Haverfordwest, merchant, and John Lewis of the parish of Llanddewi Brefi, in the co. of Pembroke, gentleman, of the other part, it is witnessed that John Stafford, in

consideration of 5s. paid him by Richard Summers and John Lewis, and for other good and valuable consideration did demise, grant, bargain, set and to farm, let to Richard Summers and John Lewis, their executors and assigns

"forty foot broad of the south-end of all that small piece of land situate on the left side, near the town of Laugharne, late in the possession of Mary Parrot, which forty foot broad is butted and bounded on the north with the other part of the field; on the west with the highway; the river Tawe on the east; and the lands of John Bevan of Laugharne on the south; together with all rights to hold Richard Summers and John Lewis for 1,000 years, from thence next ensuing, at the yearly rent payable at the time called Michaelmas, of one peper-corn, if demanded."

Richard Summers and John Evans covenant "to erect on said lands, a house for the people called Quakers to assemble and meet together for religious worship."

A draft Abstract of Title to these leasehold premises made in the year 1823 is extant. In it we read

"The House so covenanted to be erected was accordingly built. Richard Summers survived John Lewis, having appointed by his will, Jas. Harford his sole executor, who proved (27th day, 4th mo., 1796) the will in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, Doctors' Commons. Jas. Harford by his will proved (2nd day, 6th mo., 1818), also at Drs Commons, appointed his sons Samuel Harford of Bristol, and John Harford, of Gelly Wasted, in parish of Mathern, co. Monmouth, who are both living."

#### Chapter VIII.

References to Laugharne occur so early as the year 1700, in the Minutes of Pembrokeshire Monthly Meeting, when at Q.M. held at Redstone on the 4th of 9th mo., "it was concluded that the next Q.M. be held at Laugharne the next fourth day after the General Meeting at Redstone in the 12th of next month." No record of this proposed Q.M. at Laugharne seems to have been made. It would not appear from the Minutes that the Laugharne meeting was at any time a large one.

Thomas Connock, and James and Michael Sankett are names of resident Friends in 1747.

John Player's "Account of a Journey through Wales" in 1753, already quoted, contains particulars of his and William Brown's visit. "This day, 29th of 11th mo. we set forward for Laugharne [from Jamestown] with our Harford hireling, where we got about the 2nd hour afternoon, and was met there by John Allen of Caermarthen. We got a meeting here in the Meeting-house in the evening, but it being very cold, there was but few people at it (there being but one in unity with Friends in the town, who was ill); howe it pleased the great Lord to Order something for them by way of Invitation; they behaved civil.

#### MADAM BEVAN.

The Morrow being advised that there was a woman of some Quality in this town who was much cried up for her Piety and Charitable act to the poor, and for being a Zealous Christian, my companion found freedom in his mind to see her, and spend some time in religious conversation. Accordingly John Allen went to know if it might be agreeable to her, but she being engag'd in morning prayer with her family could not speak with her then; but in a little time after we got some breakfast at our inn, and saw the sick Friend, and went and saw her, who received us with a great deal of fashionable freedom. She

was full of Brain knowledge, being too wise to learn of Christ, and a thorough Bigot to the priests; tho' at our parting she said she was much obliged for the visit and esteemed it a favour."

Meetings at Laugharne must have been suspended early in the nineteenth century, for at M.M. held at Neath on the 14th of 7th mo., 1803, William Weston Young of Swansea, who had "been desired to call on Rowland Edwards respecting the Burial-ground at Laugharne informs that he acknowledges Friends' claims, and promises the payment of rent as desired." In 1812, Wm. Jones being present at M.M. held at Swansea, the 12th of 4th mo., "reports that he has received of Jane Morgan 1s. for two years' rent for the house lately used as a Meeting House at Laugharne, and 1s. for two years' rent of Rowland Edwards for the use of the ground formerly used as a Burial Ground near the Tuckling Mill fields at Laugharne aforesaid, both due the 29th of 9th mo., 1810." In the following year at Neath, on the 21st of 1st mo., Wm. Jones again reports receipt of two similar accounts from the same tenants, "which is applied to the use of Caermarthen Meeting."

GEO. EYRE EVANS.

(To be continued).

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#### No. 183—Sept. 4th.

##### CARMARTHENSHIRE PLACE-NAMES.

The Congress of Archaeological Societies, with which our County Antiquarian Society is affiliated, has published notes on the systematic study of English Place-names, showing the value of such words for early history, and proving the practical impossibility of accomplishing any scientific work in any department of historical research until the place names of the country have been classified and traced to their origin. The Guild of Graduates belonging to the University of Wales has also appointed a Committee to organise a similar study of Welsh Place-names, but hitherto no principles and regulations have been published as convenient basis or guide in the research work.

Both the English and the Welsh Committees, however, recommend the work to be undertaken county by county, and that meanwhile, till the study is better organised, and the fundamental principles are applied locally, the students of Place-names should avail themselves of whatever guidance they can get in the Reports of Place-name research carried on by the Government in France, or in the British Museum Index to Place-names contained in its rolls and charters, and any other literature on the subject.

We propose, by the help of the members of our Antiquarian Society and the readers of the "Welshman" to outline some such study of the Place-names of Carmarthenshire. We should like, by way of introduction and guidance, that those readers, who will help in this interesting research work, would notice carefully the following principles:—

(1) The Objects of this Systematic Study of Carmarthenshire Place-names are: (a) to discourage the popular but generally worthless fanciful etymologies and substitute a more scientific process by recording actual facts as to Names. As an instance of this home-spun etymology I may cite an explanation which an old inhabitant of Carmarthen gave me some time ago on Wydiga, one of the most peculiar District names in the county. "It must be," said he, "that a chieftain was in days of yore rewarded for some prowess or other by his compatriots, and that the reward was a goose; hence 'Gwydd i gadarn.' So similar in sound, thought he, were the phrases that the one must be the explanation of the other."

**CAERMARTHENSHIRE**  
**"PEOPLE CALLED QUAKERS."**

[By Geo. Eyre Evans, a member from its foundation of the

**FRIENDS' HISTORICAL SOCIETY.]**

Chapter IX.

In 1814 Thomas Biggs reports to M.M. held at Neath the 17th of 3rd mo., "That owing to the decease of Jane Morgan, Friends' Meeting-house and Burial-ground, at Laugharne, has fallen into the part of this Meeting to re-let. Evan Rees and Robert Eaton are desired to take the necessary care in this respect." At the next M.M., held at Swansea, "Robert Eaton reports that an offer has been made by William Paul, of Castle Cary, Somersetshire, for the cottage formerly a Meeting House at Laugharne for the term of 7 years at a sum to leave the Society in receipt of £10 per annum clear of all rates and taxes or repairs; and to leave it in good repair at the end of the said term. His letter on the subject was brought into this meeting," and Evan Rees, Robert Eaton and Jos. T. Price were desired to have "a short agreement signed by both parties." Eaton took the matter in hand, wrote to William Paul on the subject, and received a reply "dated at Castle Cary the 17th of Nov., 1814, stating that he did not wish to incur the expense of a stamp for an agreement." The M.M. therefore "concluded to let it rest as per former arrangement for 7 years from the decease of the late Jane Morgan. Robert Eaton reported that he applied for the rent, due up to the time of the late Jane Morgan's decease, 3d." At the M.M., held at Neath, 18th of 1st mo., 1815, "the cause of receiving the little arrear of rent, 3d., due on the Laugharne Meetinghouse up to the time of the late Jane Morgan's decease, is referred to Robert Eaton." William Paul, evidently w<sup>t</sup> the consent of M.M., "re-let the house at Laugharne to John Vaughan. A copy of his agreement follows: "I, John Vaughan, agrees to take the House and garden with premises thereupon, at a nett annual rent of £8, and to keep the same in repairs, the Society allowing two guineas towards repairs now thought necessary; the rent to be paid half-yearly, and to commence at Christmas next, 25th December, 1815." In 1816, after paying "£15 monies, which is placed to the credit of this Meeting with Gibbins and Co." Wm. Paul's tenancy ceased, and we hear no more of him or of Vaughan. At the M.M. held that year at Neath, on the 21st of 11th mo., "William Jones reports that application has been made for Laugharne Meeting-house by George Wilkins, who appears willing to take the same at the yearly rent of £5. He is requested to procure a letter from Wilkins addressed to Robert Eaton signifying the same, which letter must be signed also by the person who will be responsible for the rent." Two months later at M.M. held at Swansea, "Peter Price, Elijah Waring, Henry Bath, and several others present, Robert Eaton brought to the Meeting an agreement from George Wilkins to take the Meeting-house at Laugharne at the rent of £5 5s. per annum, to commence 12th mo. 25, 1816, the payment guaranteed by Martha Griffiths." Wilkins was presumably still tenant in 1822, for at M.M. held at Swansea the 9th of 5th mo., "the Treasurer reports that he has received £4 5s. 6d. for rent of Laugharne Meeting-house, which with the allowance of 19s. 6d. to the tenant for repairs makes the amount of rent to 12th mo. 25th last." In 1824 the Meeting-house was "sold to Storke of Laugharne for £80," and at M.M. held at Neath on the 9th of 12th mo. that year, "Robert Eaton is appointed to hand the deeds and receive the money, the sum of £80 purchase money for Laugharne Meeting-house. And he is requested to place the same at interest for the benefit of this Meeting."

The Meeting House, and the Burial Ground were separate properties, the former being the property of the Friends, and the latter, in 1823, being household, was owned by the executors of James Harford.

On the 9th of 6th mo., 1905, the writer (in company with the Rev. John Thomas, M.A., Vicar of Laugharne) again visited "Quakers' Yard," after a lapse of some fifteen years from the time when he first saw it. No remains whatever of the Meeting-house were visible. The enclosure is yet approached from the high road by the "footway containing four foot in breadth." No headstones nor footstones to any graves are to be seen.

Mary Curtis, in her "Antiquities of Laugharne," simply says (p. 102). There were Quakers formerly residing in Laugharne. Their burying place was the part still called "The Quakers' Yard," a field near Ant's Hill, on the opposite side of the road to it; and again (n. 160) Several families of the Quakers resided here formerly in a field belonging to Horse Pool Farm they had their burying-ground; it is entered by a gate on this side of the upper gate of Ant's Hill House, and opposite to it. From the gate you pass down a narrow path with trees on each side; at the end of it, and on the right is an opening into a square plot of ground closed in on all sides, but one, with a hedge and trees; it is the 'Quakers' Yard.' It dates from about 1600. Some poplar trees then stood here."

The writer, who had personal knowledge of dear Mary Curtis—whose gossip "Antiquities" preserves so much of real value—feels certain that here with her date "from about 1600," she is but simply and in all good faith, recording what she had heard from some of "her many kind friends in these parts." The Burial-ground was leased, in 1726, to "the people called Quakers," the site on which to erect a house "for the people called Quakers, to assemble and meet together for religious worship" was leased in 1742. The earliest MS. reference yet forthcoming to Laugharne Friends is that in the M.M. Minutes of the year 1700.

(To be continued).

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**CAERMARTHEN PARLIAMENTARY SURVEYS,**  
**1650-53.**

[Concluded.]

"And all ways, passages, liberties, privileges, immunities, jurisdictions, profits, roundabouties, advantages and appurtenances whatsoever, to the said tenements and parcels of ground belonging or in any wise appertaining, or which have been heretofore used, occupied, or enjoyed, as part parcel and member of them or any of them.

"Total value per annum ... .iiiij li.

"This survey was perfected " Jeremie Baines.  
 the 6 of September, 1653, " Joh. Haddock.  
 by us, viz., " Samuell Cottman.

"This we discovered upon the place."

The last note seems to indicate that the Commissioners did not always visit the places they were appointed to survey.

Endorsed:—"Three tenements in Water-street  
 within the Town of Carmarthen—Carmarthen—Reed, this 6th of September, 1653.  
 Transmitted to the Surveyor General the  
 same day. Ent'd Discoverie, D. Mgn."  
 [i.e., David Morgan.]

Survey No. 17 is as follows:—

" Carmarthen—A survey of two parcels of land, commonly called Park y Brimblawd and Park y Plotas, in the Parish of Carmarthen and in the County of Carmarthen, late parcel of the possessions of Charles Stuart, late King of England, made and taken by us whose names are hereunto subscribed, by virtue of a Commission granted to us by the Honourable the Trustees appointed by Act of the Commons assembled in Parliament, for sale of the Honours, Manors, and Lands heretofore belonging to the late King, Queen, and Prince, under their hands and seals.

" Park y | All that close and parcel of arable and  
Brim- | meadow ground with the appurtenances, commonly called Parke y  
blawd, | aunces, commonly called Parke y  
Brimblawd, lying and being in the Parish  
of Carmarthen, within the franchises thereof,  
and in the County of Carmarthen, and near a place called Llwyn y Mandie, abutted on the east by certain grounds called Town Lands, belonging to the Town of Carmarthen, and on the north by the lands of Mr. John Williams aforesaid, which said close contained by estimation five acres, more or less which we value to be worth per annum ...05.0.0—ls.

" Park y | All that piece and parcel of arable  
Plotas | ground with the appurtenances com-  
monly called Parke y Plotas, lying  
and being in the Parish of Carmarthen,  
within the franchises thereof, and in the  
said County of Carmarthen, and in a place  
called Llwyn y Mandie abutted on the  
east, south, and west by certain closes of  
ground in the tenure of Mr. John Williams  
aforesaid, and on the north by a parcel of  
ground within the same inclosure, called  
the Town Commons, belonging to the Town  
of Carmarthen, which said parcel of ground  
called Park y Plotas, contained by es-  
timation one acre and a half, more or less,  
which we value to be worth per annum  
01.20.00—xv s.

*Edmund*  
*Richard 1692*  
*Richard 1723*  
*Walter Card*  
*John Richard Mary*  
*John Allen*  
*William Allen*

" Which said parcels of ground, called Park y Brimblawd and Park y Plotas, we find in the tenure and occupation of Mr. John Williams aforesaid, who claims to hold the same by virtue of letters patent under the Great Seal, dated the 10th of January, the 14th of King James, whereby King James granted unto Thomas Trever, Esq., to the use of Prince Charles, all that close, called Parke y Brimblawd, containing three (sic) acres, and one close, called Parke y Plotas, containing one acre and a half, late in the tenure of Morgan Owen, clerk, lying in the Town of Carmarthen and franchises thereof, paying therefore the yearly rent of fifteen shillings, late parcel of the possession of Rice Griffith, attainted, Habendum, for ninety nine years, from Michaelmas then last past, which said Thomas Trever, Knight (sic), by Indenture dated the 27th of September, 1631, assigns his interest in the parcels above-said unto John Eadisburne and his assigns, whence the same is derived to the present possessor, Mr. John Williams, who hath sixty three years yet to come and unexpired, by virtue of the said letters patent.

" And all ways, passages, liberties, privileges, jurisdictions, franchises, immunities, profits, commodities, advantages, and appurtenances whatsoever, to the said parks belonging or in any wise appertaining, or which have been heretofore used, occupied, or enjoyed, as part parcel and member of them or any of them.

" Total value per annum ...lxv s.

" This survey was perfected } " Jeremie Baines.  
the 6th of September, } " Samuel Cottman.  
1653, by us, viz., } " Joh. Haddock."  
" This is the discovery of David Morgan,  
Esq."

Endorsed:—" Two parcels of Land, called Park y Brimblawd and Park y Plotas, Carmarthen. Recd, the 6th of September, 1653. Transmitted to the Surveyor-General the same day. Ent'd Discoverie, D. Magn."

—o:—

No. 188—Oct. 9th.

### VICARS OF ST. PETER'S, CARMARTHEN.

Richard II.—Robert Prythin.  
1534—Thomas Richard.  
1540—Thomas Lloyd.  
1671—Owen Thomas.

Two lists of Vicars have already appeared in these Transactions, VII., 23; X., 42.

In a MS. book compiled by Mr. David Jones, and now in the possession of Hyd Nicholl, F.S.A. I find the four names given above. In all other respects the list agrees with those hitherto published, but the death of Vicar Philip Jones is given under 1695, and not 1696 [Mr. Alewyn Evans]. The date 1534 for the institution of Thomas Richard creates a difficulty even if he is not identical with the Thomas Prichard of 1538. Is there anything known of Owen Thomas? Was he Curate or Vicar?

J. R. GABRIEL.

Llandebbie.

### CAERMARTHENSHIRE

#### "PEOPLE CALLED QUAKERS."

[By Geo. Eyre Evans, a member from its foundation of the

FRIENDS' HISTORICAL SOCIETY.]

#### CHAPTER X.

##### SOME LAUGHARNE FRIENDS.

RICHARD STAFFORD and MARY PERROT.

They were, in all likelihood, son and daughter of Walter Stafford (1607-1746), a "convinced" Friend, who died at Cork, whose grandfather, Edmund Stafford descended from the early Barons and Earls of Stafford, fled from his home at Laugharne, after the defeat of the Royalists by Cromwell's troops, and settled in Ireland. Edmund's son, Richard (d. 1692) returned to England in the reign of Charles II., and vainly endeavoured to recover his father's Welsh inheritance. He is described as a "High Churchman." His son Walter, the probable father of Richard and Mary, had also son John Stafford born at Cork in 1705, removed to Bristol, and thence to London, where he died in 1751, leaving a widow, Ann Masters (d. 1768), of Cork, a Friend. Margaret Stafford (1747-1830) their daughter, married Job Allen (1734-1800), silk weaver, Spitalfields, a "convinced" Friend, and was the mother of William Allen, F.R.S. (1770-1843), a well-known philanthropist, and Executor to H.R.H. the Duke of Kent.

JOHN STAFFORD, nephew and devisee of Mary Perrot, and, in 1742, described as "of Bradford," in the county of Wilts., clothier, may have been son of Samuel Stafford, another son of Walter Stafford. If so, he was killed at the battle of Bunker's Hill, 17 June, 1775.

JAMES PERROT, husband of Mary Stafford, remains, so far, unidentified. Laugharne members and other readers may be able to help in the matter.

## CHAPTER XI.

## LLANDILO-L'AWR.

The earliest mention known to the writer of any Quaker in this parish is that by Besse in the "Sufferings," where he writes (i., p. 742)—

"Anno 1660. John William<sup>s</sup> of Llandilo, for a Demand for 14s. for Tithes, had an Horse taken from him worth £4."

That such treatment as this did not exterminate the Friends from the parish is evident from an entry in the MS. Register of the M.M. of the South Division of Wales, 1657-1765, in the custody of the Registrar-General, and which has come under the writer's examination:—

"Rachel Bowen departed this life the 11th Day of the 7th mo., in the year of our blessed Saviour, 1694. And was stolen from Friends, And lies inter'd in Llandilo Steeple House."

This violent appropriation of a Friend's corpse by relatives and others who were not of the Society was not singular to Llandilo. At Alton, in Hampshire, a similar occurrence had taken place some years previously. In the MS. Register of the Friends in that district we find this entry:—

"Sarah Bullask, dau. of Thos. and Ann Bullask, having departed the body And being intended to bee buried in the burying place at Alton: William Bullock, brother of Thos. Bullock, and John Silchester, brother of Ann Bullock, did by violence take and carry the Corps, and buried it in the mass-house yard, to ye grieve of her parents."

In his MS. "Visitatio Archidiaconatus Mari- duniensis, A.D., MDCCX," Archdeacon Tenison records that in

"Llan Deilo fawr, There is a meeting of Quakers consisting of about 6 families of this parish."

At this period Friends assembled for worship in a house known as Penplace, and here they were visited on Monday, 3rd day 12th mo., 1753, by John Player, who came to them from the meeting at Caermarthen already referred to, and who is careful to note in his MS. that the distance from Caermarthen to Penplace is twelve miles. He says:—

"The morrow a meeting was appointed to be at Pen-place at the wido. Bowens whither we went being accompany'd by our Landlord Wm. Reynolds as Guide. Having sat under a pretty heavy Cloud for some time in the meeting it was made manifest that a meeting by way of Conference was what wou'd be of most service here, accordingly it was proposed, and the state of their meeting enquired into concerning their holding a week day meeting, in which practice they had formerly been, but thro' lukewarmness and an indifferent state had let it drop, by which a numbness was come upon them. After having blamed one and t'other for their non-attendance they agree'd to renew the former practice, and after a little silent waiting the meeting ended with an admonition concerning the nature of true and acceptable prayer. We lodg'd here this night, Wm. Reynolds returning home."

Another meeting was likewise occasionally held at this time at Pen-y-banc, some seven miles from Penplace, and thither John Player rode on the following day:—

"The morrow set forward to Penbank to the house of Thomas Price (accompanied by David Bowen as guide), where we had a meeting in the evening. It was a tolerable good meeting, tho' some was not so watchful as cou'd have been desired. They were advised to be more mindful of the duty they came about, and encouraged to revive their week-day meeting."

## CHAPTER XII.

The invaluable Minute Books at Neath now help us to carry on our tale. The first reference is that of a M.M. held at Penybanc, 5th of 2nd mo., 1757, the Friends present being William Reynolds, Lewis William, Thomas John, Jacob David, Thomas Rowell, Thomas John Phillip, William Griffith, Rees William, Evan William, and Thomas Price. The number of Friends entered as being here—ten—is larger than usual at that period, and evidently some especial business had to be considered. This was none other than to confer about a new place of meeting. We read that—

"As Friends are not satisfied to keep their Meeting at Penplace any further, this Meeting appoints Jacob David, Lewis William, to look for a convenient place for a Meeting-house and agree for the same."

(To be continued).

## CAERMARTHEN.

## THE LAST MAN PUT IN THE PILLORY.

"In a letter which has appeared [1892] in the 'South Wales Star,' we read:—'The Unitarians were in a strange position during the great French wars at the end of the last century. They were detested by the Government on account of their freedom of thought, and their avowed sympathy with the French Revolution; while they were equally abhorred by the old Conservative Revivalists for their heterodoxy on such questions as the inspiration of the Bible and the Trinity. The last man in Wales to be put in a pillory was a Unitarian preacher at Carmarthen, who was suspected of Jacobinism.' The following particulars relating to the Unitarian preacher here spoken of have been kindly supplied to us by Mr. Alewyn C. Evans, of Carmarthen, the well-known antiquary:—"Thomas Evans, or Thomas Glyn Cothi was born in May, 1766, at a place called Capel St. Silin, near Brechfa, close to the river Cothi. He married when young, and when he had six children he went to Swansea Grammar School, at the expense of the Unitarian body. Became a preacher in 1794. In 1797, when the French Revolution disturbed all Europe Tom Evans turned into a kind of "Cwrtbach" at Brechfa, where not ale but mead was called and paid for, to assist the household, as was common in those days. A secret enemy induced him to sing the Marseillaise Hymn, as it was translated into Welsh by Iolo Morganwg. He commenced—

"Chwi feibion rhydd-did."

I have the whole of the words. [Where are they now?—G.E.E.] For this he suffered two years' imprisonment in Caermarthen Gaol, and was pilloried. His daughter, who died in Priory Street not long ago, stood by his side. Of all the crowd, a woman was the only one to throw a missile at the head of this defender of free speech. When in gaol he wrote an English and Welsh dictionary, published in 1807. In Caermarthenshire he lived at a place called Penpistyll, and was called 'Twm Penpistyll' or 'Apostol Penpistyll.' He went to Aberdare about the year 1813, and died there as minister of the old chapel in Mill Street. Old Iolo Morganwg lent Twm some MS. hymns, and when Twm published his own (which are now beside me) consisting of 100 (A.D. 1811), two lines appeared as if borrowed from Iolo's, and coolness between the two men existed ever afterwards. Evans died 29th January, 1833, aged 68. His grand-daughter died in Priory Street about eighteen years ago. [We believe that Mr. George Bagnall is one of the survivors who witnessed Evans in the Pillory in front of Caermarthen Gaol.—Ed.].—From the "Welshman."

Reprinted from "The Caernarthenshire Miscellany," 1892, p. 56. Thomas Evans has since

fully sorted and endorsed by the late Fred. J. Gibbins. Amongst them is one written on the 28th August, 1828, to J. T. Price, Neath Abbey, Glamorganshire, by "M. W. Johns, glass and china warehouse, Cross, Caermarthen":—

"I have at last succeeded in obtaining a responsible tenant for your Chapel, Lammes Street, Caermarthen, on the same conditions, rent, etc., as I had it from you. He is perfectly satisfied of its being in good tenant-repair both in and outside and will engage to keep it so while in his possession. He only engages to take it from year to year, in case of his dissolution. He is now a schoolmaster, having a large school and respectable. He will take possession on Michaelmas next if you are satisfied; he is well known and of very respectable connections. Both he, his wife, and family have taken a dwelling-house in the town already. His name is John Griffiths, from Abergwili in this county."

Jos. T. Price and Bevington Gibbins, to whose hands, as we have seen, the matter of finding another tenant was referred by M.M., at once agreed "to accept John Griffiths as tenant of the house to be appropriated for a respectable school." It was in this year, 1828, that J. P. Brodrrib, of the "Golden Academy," Pembroke, opened his school, as an advertisement shews, in Lammes Street, Caermarthen. In 1830 he seems to have been in possession of the Meeting-house, and to have quarrelled with M. W. Johns. A bill is in the bundle, shewing that Evan Evans, Attorney, Caermarthen, then lately deceased, had been employed by Johns "in recovering debt from Mr. Brodrrib, 18s." said debt by endorsement amounting to £5 12s. 6d. This bill being amongst the Neath papers, seems to point to Brodrrib having been sub-tenant to Johns, the letting of the premises to John Griffiths having fallen through.

#### LAUGHARNE.

A letter written from Laugharne, on the 17th July, 1827, by Wm. Perrott, and addressed to "Mr. Starbuck, Milford, Pembrokeshire," is amongst those at Neath. It gives us a view of the state of the Burial Ground at that time:—

"In confidence that you will kindly excuse this liberty I have taken to acquaint you of a circumstance respecting the Burial ground which belongs to your Society. Many years past the ground was made over to the Society by James Perrott, then of this town, also the ground where the Meeting-house now is; the said James Perrott, also some others, are interred in the burial-ground. The occupier of the meadow wherein it is, has plowed it up, and planted potatoes therein, and report says that it's intended to cut the timber there also. As James Perrott was brother to my grandfather, it would be of great satisfaction to me to see it decently kept for the use it was intended. When I occupied the 'Blue Boar Inn' at St. Clears, I mentioned the circumstance to Mr. Rock, of Milford, and some time after he informed me that he had made enquiries, and that my relative was a very worthy member of their Society, and if anyone laid their finger on it to 'inger' it, if I would let him know he would take it up most seriously."

This letter, with its great monogram seal in red wax, was sent on to Bevington Gibbins, who at once took action, and wrote to Wm. Perrott:—

"As some of thy ancestors were interred in the Burial Ground belonging to our Society at Laugharne, I am commissioned to write on its behalf to request that thou wilt be kind enough to have an oversight respecting the said Burial Ground, that it may be kept in good order, and the trees properly preserved."

He also asks Perrott to collect the small rent due for it from Rowland Edwardes, as well as to apply to George Wilkins for balance due from him for rent of "the late Meeting-house and garden up to the time of our selling those premises."

GEO. EYRE EVANS.

(To be continued).

—o:—

#### No. 204—Jan. 29th.

#### KIDWELLY.

This note is amongst some papers in my custody, will anyone with local knowledge expand or explain it?

"East Garston, in the hundred of Lambsourne, about ten miles from Newbury, was held the Manor, by the service of finding a Knight, clad in plate armour, to serve for forty days in the King's army at his own cost, whenever the King should be in the territory of Kidwelly in Wales, of which Manor this was a member."

Cf. The Journey Book of Berkshire.

GEO. EYRE EVANS.

#### CAERMARTHEN: THE POND SIDE.

It is said this mill stream was diverted from the Gwili, and made 300 years ago; the probability is it was made to supply water to a mill which formerly stood near Pont Richard Eynon, and afterwards was extended to a mill, and to the Tinworks near the Priory; as also to a mill near Abergwili bridge. The farm-house at that place is still called Felin-newydd in contradistinction to the Bishop's Mill, an older one on the opposite side of the Gwili, watered from the Crychau, a tributary.

Cf. MS. Note by the late George Spurrell.

GEO. EYRE EVANS.

#### CAERMARTHEN BRIDGE.

This was formerly repairable by the Corporation of Kidwelly, which owned marshes near Pensarn road, which road that Corporation also repaired, but the marshes (held to be in the Duchy of Lancaster) were transferred to the Corporation on condition to maintain Caermarthen Bridge and Pensarn Road. The Sarn, or Pensarn Road was transferred to the County Roads' Board in July, 1845. Stone walls were built near the Bridge, and the roadway levelled in 1765; the arch next the town rebuilt in 1775; and the bridge widened six feet in 1777. In 1828-9 it was again widened, and the recesses on the pillars removed, and a dwarf wall and railings erected, subsequently replaced by those now on it.

Cf. MS. Note by the late George Spurrell.

GEO. EYRE EVANS.

#### ABERGWILI: THE BISHOP'S POND.

This favourite resort of skaters in hard winters is part of the old course of the Towy, which took place at a great flood, on the night of Llanybyther Fair, 17th July, 1802, when Lord George Murray was Bishop of St. David's. Previously coals used to be conveyed to Abergwili Palace by boats, there being a short canal from the Towy, crossed by a bridge called "Pont Rocca." This diversion of Towy must not be confounded with one which took place before, and is shewn on Speed's Map, 1610, by two courses of the river.

Cf. MS. note by the late George Spurrell.

GEO. EYRE EVANS.